

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 RSR-01 /110 W

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R 281737 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8579

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1372

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ PINS MO LY FR

SUBJ: KING AND PRIME MINISTER ADDRESS VETERANS OF INDEPENDENCE
MOVEMENT

REF: RABAT 1286

1. SUMMARY. KING AND PRIME MINISTER MEET WITH VETERANS OF
PRE- INDEPENDENCE RESISTANCE AND LIBERATION ARMY TO PROMISE
SUPPORT THEIR BREAD AND BUTTER DEMANDS. KING DENOUNCES
" RENEGADES" RESPONSIBLE FOR THRONE DAY ATTACKS WHO DRAWN
FROM VETERANS WHO HE SAYS HAVE BECOME MERCENARIES IN
PAY OF FOREIGN COUNTRY. KING OBVIOUSLY PURSUING HIS POLITICAL FENCE-
MENDING WITH ALIENATED BERBERS. END SUMMARY.

2. KING HASSAN RECEIVED LARGE GROUP OF RESISTANCE FIGHTERS
AND VETERANS OF LIBERATION ARMY WHO FOUGHT FRENCH IN
MOROCCAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, AT ROYAL PALACE IN
RABAT ON MARCH 26. IN SPEECH TO GROUP GREAT BULK OF WHICH
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MADE UP OF BERBERS FROM RIF, ATLAS MOUNTAINS AND SOUSS, KING SPOKE OF ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES TO BE MADE, WITH THEIR ADVICE, IN NATIONAL OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR AFFAIRS - PENSIONS, ALLOWANCES, MEDICAL BENEFITS, ETC., SO THAT VETERANS WILL BE GUARANTEED DIGNIFIED AND DECENT LIFE.

3. IN SPEECH WHICH LATER BROADCAST ON RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS MARCH 26, KING PRAISED HISTORIC ROLE OF RESISTANTS AND LIBERATION ARMY IN FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND OFFERED THANKS TO GOD THAT HE HAD TAKEN INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE THEIR LOT BEFORE RECENT THRONE DAY AND SUBSEQUENT ATTACKS. THIS BECAUSE THOSE " MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY AND OUR" (I. E., FUGITIVE VETERANS OF LIBERATION ARMY WHO SUPPORT MAHAMED EL- BASRI AND PARTICIPATED IN MOULAY BOUAZZA AND GOULMIMA ATTACKS) HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DENY MOROCCAN DIGNITY AND PRIDE. THEY HAVE SOLD OUT TO FOREIGN INFLUENCE AND MONEY (READ LIBYA), KILLED OR TRIED TO KILL MOROCCAN BROTHERS MOTIVATED BY " INDIVIDUALS WHO WANT TO CAUSE THE GREATEST DISASTER THIS COUNTRY WILL HAVE KNOWN IN THIRTEEN CENTURIES." KING MADE SPECIAL POINT TO VETERANS THAT MORCCAN RENEGADES, I. E., EL- BASRI AND SUPPORTERS, " HAVE FOUND REFUGE IN CAPITAL OF COUNTRY (READ FRANCE) WHICH WAS OUR OCCUPIER AND WHICH DISPERSED, MARTYRED, KILLED AND EXILED MANY OF YOU."

4. ON MARCH 28, PRIME MINISTER OSMAN OPENED WORKING SESSION WITH VETERANS WHO ARE SCHEDULED TO CONSULT FOR ONE WEEK WITH GOM TO PREPARE REFORMS IN THEIR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND STATUS. IN SPEECH TO GROUP OSMAN REFERRED ONLY BRIEFLY TO " DEVIATIONISTS" SUPPORTED FROM OUTSIDE. HE EMPHASIZED HEROISM OF RESISTANTS AND LIBERATION ARMY IN STRUGGLE LED BY THE " FIRST RESISTANT," LAT KING MOHAMMED V. OSMAN ALSO SPOKE OF SACRIFICES OF THEN CROWN PRINCE HASSAN AND ROYAL FAMILY FOR INDEPENDENCE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT INDEPENDENCE RESULTED FROM STUGGLE BY ALL MOROCCANS NOT JUST ONE PARTY (I. E., ISTIQLAL) AND OSMAN ENDED WITH PLEDGE THAT ALL GOM OFFICIALS WILL WORK TO OBTAIN VETERANS' " LEGITIMATE RIGHTS." IN THIS REGARD, IT NOTEWORTHY THAT KING GAVE DINNER FOR VETERANS EVENING MARCH 26 AT OFFICERS CLUB RABAT AND THAT ISTIQLAL LEADER ALLAL AL FASSI APPEARED SITTING AT OSMAN' S LEFT AT TABLE IN PRESS PHOTO PUBLISHED PRO- GOVERNMENT " LE MATIN" MARCH 28.

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5. COMMENT: KING' S AND OSMAN' S ATTENTION TO BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES OF RESISTANTS AND LIBERATION ARMY VETERANS CONSTITUTES FURTHER EFFORT AT MENDING REGIME' S FENCES

WITH BERBERS. APPOINTMENT OF HIGH BERBER OFFICER AS CHIEF
OF KHENIFRA ADMINISTRATION REGION (REFTEL) WAS SIMILAR MOVE.
THIS PARTICULAR COMMUNITY OF VETERANS WAS TARGET OF EL- BASRI' S
POLITICAL ORGANIZING FOR UNFP IN EARLY 1960' S AND HAS REMAINED
CONSITUENCY WHICH EL- BASRI HAS REPORTEDLY PLANNED TO
USE FOR POLITICAL ENDS THROUGH ARMED UPRISINGS AND
SUBVERSION. KING' S DIG AT FRENCH FOR HARBORING EL- BASRI
AND OTHER SUBVERSIVES INDICATES HE WANTS GOF TO CLAMP
DOWN ON THEM.
PARKER

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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